

Greek shipping lines may buy Cunard cruise liners

DAILY TELEGRAPH REPORTER

THE two Cunard passenger liners up for sale the Carmania, 21,370 tons, and Franconia, 21,460 tons, may be bought by a Greek shipping line.

A Cunard spokesman confirmed last night that: "We are having talks now."

"We cannot name the possible purchaser or his nationality. We shall be pleased to talk to anyone who makes an offer."

Interest in the ships has already been shown by the Greek firm, Chandris Lines, which operates seven passenger liners.

"We were negotiating for the liners before Trafalgar House Investments bought Cunard in August. But we are not negotiating at the moment, as far as I know," said a spokesman.

Union's reply

The managing director of Trafalgar House, Mr Victor Matthews, earlier blamed restrictive practices by British seamen for the sale of the two cruise liners.

Last night Mr William Hogarth, secretary of the National Union of Seamen, hotly contested Mr Matthew's statement.

British seamen worked a 40-hour week while seamen in foreign lines worked "all the hours there are" to keep their jobs, he said.

The company, said Mr Hogarth, wanted to use low-grade catering labour from Caribbean countries, 250 in each ship, at £20 a month against British workers' pay of £80 a month. The Seamen's Union objected to this.

When the ships were laid up, 350 sea-going staff in each were made redundant. Unemployment of seamen on a national scale is now seven to eight per cent. higher than in 1939, said Mr Hogarth.

Sale of Bremen

Chandris Lines' sister company, Chandris Cruises, bought the Bremen, 32,360 tons, West Germany's biggest and fastest passenger liner, last October.

She has now been renamed Regina Magna, and will be operating as one of the company's six cruise liners next season.

Ellerman Lines, one of Britain's leading shipping lines, sold four passenger-cargo liners in September to a Greek shipowner, Mr A. M. Karageorgis, for about £1,250,000.

He will use them under new names for passenger shipping. The four ships were withdrawn from the South Africa-Europe route because of rising costs.

Two on offer

Shaw Savill's £7 million Southern Cross, 19,313 tons, launched by the Queen in 1954, was withdrawn from service last month through "escalation in operating expenses."

She is now lying at Southampton, offered for sale, said a Shaw Savill spokesman.

Also on offer is Canadian Pacific's liner, Empress of Canada, 25,615 tons, withdrawn from service at Liverpool last month. Cruise schedules from the Caribbean to New York were cancelled.

7,000gns FOR GEORGE III BOOKCASE

By Our Art Sales
Correspondent

A GEORGE III satinwood secretaire bookcase, 52½ in wide, realised 7,000gns at Christies yesterday. It was the property of the late Lady J. D. Cochrane, and was acquired by a private buyer.

There is a similar bookcase in the Victoria and Albert Museum. Total for the sale of English furniture, clocks, tapestries, etc., was £97,979.

C. John paid 4,800 gns for an English tapestry of "The Harvesters" after Teniers, which was sent for sale by Sir Thomas Pilkington. It has been attributed tentatively to Francis and Thomas Pointns.

A George III ormolu-mounted tortoise-shell musical automaton bracket clock by William Story, London, obtained 2,900 gns (Meyrick Neilson). The arch is painted with a seascape, with automaton ships and swans moving from left to right.

£19,000 for wine

Christies wine sale brought in £19,240.

£16,000 RUBY RING Necklace fetches £8,000

At Sotheby's a cushion-shaped ruby of 12.52 carats, set solitaire as a ring, was sold for £16,000 (Seymour). It was the property of Mrs Ernest G. Kleinwort.

Total for the jewel sale was £140,596. S. H. Harris gave £8,500 for the last lot, an emerald and diamond necklace, and a ring with a brilliant-cut diamond fetched £4,800 (Lubliner).

Water colours and drawings

Sotheby's sale of 19th and 20th century water colours and drawings realised £22,927. A gouache of 1953 by Marino Marini obtained £1,250 (Recanati), and a gouache of 1967 by Serge Polisskoff made £950 (Waddington).

£12,000 for silver

At Sotheby's Belgravia 19th century English and foreign silver and plate commanded £12,562. Top price was £480 given by Bloomstein for four William IV second course dishes, 106 ozs 7dwt, by Paul Storr.

£1,300 coast scene

At Bonham's a picture sale totalled 125,683. Smith paid £1,300 for a Dutch coastal scene by Abraham Hulk, senior.

Musical instruments

At Phillips musical instruments were sold for £8,651. Maxwell acquired for £320 a violoncello by Peter Wamsley.

£7,000 lead soldiers

Phillips also held a sale of lead soldiers which brought in £7,772 and for which bids were